

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method comprising a first vendor generating one or more files corresponding to an integrated circuit, the integrated circuit having one or more registers, wherein a content of the one or more files is structured for at least one of: (i) incorporation into a boot code sequence; or (ii) access by the boot code sequence during execution; and wherein the boot code sequence is configured to initialize the one or more registers responsive to the content during execution.
2. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein a change to the one or more files is performed without requiring a recompile of the boot code sequence.
3. The method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the first vendor transmitting the one or more files to a second vendor that develops the boot code sequence.
4. The method as recited in claim 3 wherein the second vendor is one of a plurality of vendors that develop the boot code sequence, and wherein the generating the one or more files comprises providing a plurality of sections in the one or more files, each of the plurality of sections corresponding to a different one of the plurality of vendors.
5. The method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the first vendor transmitting the one or more files to a manufacturer of a system that includes the integrated circuit and the boot code sequence.
6. The method as recited in claim 5 further comprising storing the one or more files in a nonvolatile memory in the system.
7. The method as recited in claim 6 further comprising accessing the one or more files during execution of the boot code sequence in the system.

8. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the boot code sequence is divided into a plurality of phases, and wherein the one or more files are also divided according to the plurality of phases, and wherein generating the one or more files comprises including a first register of the one or more registers in a first phase of the plurality of phases in which the first register is to be initialized.
9. The method as recited in claim 8 wherein the plurality of phases comprises an early phase, a middle phase subsequent to the early phase, and a late phase subsequent to the middle phase.
10. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the one or more files comprise at least one table of register identifiers and corresponding initialization values for the one or more registers.
11. The method as recited in claim 10 wherein the one or more files further comprise code which, when executed, initializes at least one register of the one or more registers.
12. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the one or more files comprise code which, when executed, initializes the one or more registers.
13. The method as recited in claim 12 further comprising incorporating the code from the one or more files into the boot code sequence during a compile of the boot code sequence.
14. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein a database corresponding to the integrated circuit defines the one or more registers and initialization values for the one or more registers, and wherein generating one or more files comprises parsing the database to extract indications of the one or more registers and the initialization values.

15. The method as recited in claim 14 wherein the database further defines temporal ordering requirements for at least some of the one or more registers, and wherein the generating one or more files further comprises ordering the indications of the one or more registers and the initialization values according to the temporal ordering requirements.

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16. The method as recited in claim 15 wherein a first temporal ordering requirement corresponding to a first register of the one or more registers identifies a first phase of a plurality of phases of the boot code sequence in which the first register is to be initialized.

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17. The method as recited in claim 15 wherein a first temporal ordering requirement corresponding to a first register of the one or more registers identifies a second register of the one or more registers and an order of initializing the first register and the second register.

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18. The method as recited in claim 15 wherein the integrated circuit includes a plurality of blocks, each block having a subset of the one or more registers, and wherein a first temporal ordering requirement identifies a first block of the plurality of blocks, a second block of the plurality of blocks, and an order of initializing subsets of registers in the first block and the second block.

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19. The method as recited in claim 14 wherein the database further includes at least one initialization indication of whether or not initialization is required, the parsing not extracting a corresponding indication of a first register in response to the initialization indication indicating that initialization of the first register is not required.

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20. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the first vendor designs the integrated circuit.

21. A computer accessible medium comprising a first one or more instructions which,

when executed generate one or more files corresponding to an integrated circuit, the integrated circuit having one or more registers, wherein a content of the one or more files is structured for at least one of: (i) incorporation into a boot code sequence; or (ii) access by the boot code sequence during execution; and wherein the boot code sequence is
5 configured to initialize the one or more registers responsive to the content.

22. The computer accessible medium as recited in claim 21 further comprising a second one or more instructions which, when executed, transmit the one or more files to at least one of: (i) a vendor that develops the boot code sequence; or (ii) a manufacturer of a
10 system that includes the integrated circuit and the boot code sequence.

23. The computer accessible medium as recited in claim 21 wherein the boot code sequence is divided into a plurality of phases, and wherein the one or more files are also divided according to the plurality of phases, and wherein the first instructions comprise
15 one or more instructions which, when executed, include a first register of the one or more registers in a first phase of the plurality of phases in which the first register is to be initialized.

24. The computer accessible medium as recited in claim 23 wherein the plurality of
20 phases comprises an early phase, a middle phase subsequent to the early phase, and a late phase subsequent to the middle phase.

25. The computer accessible medium as recited in claim 21 wherein the vendor is one of a plurality of vendors that develop the boot code sequence, and wherein first instructions
25 comprise one or more instructions which, when executed, provide a plurality of sections in the one or more files, each of the plurality of sections corresponding to a different one of the plurality of vendors.

26. The computer accessible medium as recited in claim 21 wherein the one or more files

comprise at least one table of register identifiers and corresponding initialization values for the one or more registers.

27. The computer accessible medium as recited in claim 26 wherein the one or more files
5 further comprise code which, when executed, initializes at least one register of the one or more registers.

28. The computer accessible medium as recited in claim 21 wherein the one or more files comprise code which, when executed, initializes the one or more registers.

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29. The computer accessible medium as recited in claim 21 further comprising a database corresponding to the integrated circuit that defines the one or more registers and initialization values for the one or more registers, and wherein the first instructions comprise a third one or more instructions which, when executed, parse the database to
15 extract indications of the one or more registers and the initialization values.

30. The computer accessible medium as recited in claim 29 wherein the database further defines temporal ordering requirements for at least some of the one or more registers, and wherein the first instructions further comprise a third one or more instructions which,
20 when executed, order the indications of the one or more registers and the initialization values according to the temporal ordering requirements.

31. The computer accessible medium as recited in claim 30 wherein a first temporal ordering requirement corresponding to a first register of the one or more registers
25 identifies a first phase of a plurality of phases of the boot code sequence in which the first register is to be initialized.

32. The computer accessible medium as recited in claim 30 wherein a first temporal ordering requirement corresponding to a first register of the one or more registers

identifies a second register of the one or more registers and an order of initializing the first register and the second register.

5 33. The computer accessible medium as recited in claim 30 wherein the integrated circuit includes a plurality of blocks, each block having a subset of the one or more registers, and wherein a first temporal ordering requirement identifies a first block of the plurality of blocks, a second block of the plurality of blocks, and an order of initializing subsets of registers in the first block and the second block.

10 34. The computer accessible medium as recited in claim 29 wherein the database further includes at least one initialization indication of whether or not initialization is required, and wherein the third one or more instructions, when executed, do not extract a corresponding indication of a first register in response to the initialization indication indicating that initialization of the first register is not required.

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35. A method comprising:

receiving, from a first vendor, one or more files corresponding to an integrated circuit designed by the first vendor, the integrated circuit having one or
20 more registers, wherein a content of the one or more files is structured for at least one of: (i) incorporation into a boot code sequence; or (ii) access by the boot code sequence during execution; and wherein the boot code sequence is configured to initialize the one or more registers responsive to the content; and

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incorporating the content of the one or more files into the boot code sequence.

36. A computer accessible medium comprising one or more files corresponding to an integrated circuit, the integrated circuit having one or more registers, wherein a content of

the one or more files is structured for at least one of: (i) incorporation into a boot code sequence; or (ii) access by the boot code sequence during execution.

37. A system comprising:

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one or more integrated circuits, at least one of which comprises a processor; and

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one or more nonvolatile memories storing: (i) a boot code sequence executable by the processor and (ii) one or more files corresponding to at least a first integrated circuit of the one or more integrated circuits, the first integrated circuit having one or more registers, wherein a content of the one or more files is structured for access by the boot code sequence during execution; wherein the boot code sequence is configured to initialize the one or more registers responsive to the content.

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